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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 25, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and Public  
School Academy Directors

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction 

SUBJECT: Michigan Steps Up Youth Leadership and Advocacy Summit - Saturday,  
October 28, 2006

I would like to bring to your attention a wonderful learning opportunity for students taking place on October 28, 2006 at Lakeview High School in Battle Creek, Michigan. Please consider sending at least one team from your school district to the first ever Surgeon General's Michigan Steps Up Youth Leadership and Advocacy Summit. This will be a great opportunity for young people to network with peers and identify how our youth can take a leadership role to improve their district's health environment.

The purpose of the Youth Summit is to:

- 1) engage youth in making a personal commitment to a healthy lifestyle (specifically moving more, eating better, and living a tobacco-free lifestyle).
- 2) empower youth teams to become advocates for environmental and policy changes in their schools to support healthy lifestyles.
- 3) develop detailed action plans to be implemented in schools across Michigan that can be evaluated over the course of the year.

I am proud to report that students have had the opportunity to provide input during every phase of the planning process and will play leadership roles during the Summit.

Summit participants will hear what Michigan schools have done to create a healthier school environment and will listen to well-known speakers about health issues, leadership, advocacy, grassroots action, and more. Participants will also have the opportunity to network with other students from around the state and enjoy an activity night at an outstanding Battle Creek recreation center.

Teams should consist of up to four high school students and must be accompanied by an adult mentor. If your school has a Coordinated School Health Team, the adult mentor should be a member of that team.

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Shortly after the school year begins, you will receive a packet of information with event details, lodging options, and registration instructions. In the meantime, please contact Deb Newman, Lakeview School District, at 269-565-2415 if you have any questions.

I sincerely hope that you will consider sending at least one team from your school district to be part of this exciting Summit.